



# VILLAGE OF BROOKFIELD

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*A news release from the Village of Brookfield*

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## ***Bike Brookfield rolls to success in first year***

**Brookfield, IL**—Hundreds of bicyclists came together to launch the Village of Brookfield's inaugural Bike Brookfield event, taking advantage of great spring weather to have a relaxing ride through heart of Brookfield. The event drew hundreds of bicyclists from all parts of the community and all ages, along with visitors from nearby suburbs and Chicago.

Building on the popularity of the police department's annual Bike Rodeo, the Village introduced a Kids Ride, a 5K/10K Community Ride and an after party with live music and raffle prizes from area businesses. It served as a fun community event that showcased Brookfield's bike-friendly neighborhoods and downtown and 8 Corners shopping districts. It also served as a strong reminder that Brookfield is a great connection point for bicycling, since Brookfield visitors and residents can connect – by bike – to the Salt Creek Trail and many other recreational amenities.

"The sheer number of participants shows how enthusiastic people are about riding bikes in Brookfield," Village President Kit Ketchmark said. "We were also able to feature the many outdoor opportunities people have when they come to Brookfield, since we have easy access to the parks, the Salt Creek, the Little League games, and of course the Zoo. Just as important, it brought the community together – young, old, long-time residents, and new homeowners."

At the Bike Rodeo, children learned basic bike skills by participating in an obstacle course, as well as fun activities that focused on improving their bicycling skills. Young riders were given helmets and received bike inspections. Following the Bike Rodeo, a brief Kids Ride and 5K/10K Community Ride took participants through the 8 Corners business district, past the Brookfield Zoo and along the local Metra line. The festive after party at Kiwanis Park featured Chicago musician Gerald McClendon and raffle prizes including bike helmets, bike locks, a bike tuneup and more.

The Village is committed to bicycling not only for recreation but also as a way to commute and get around town. In the next few years, the Village will pursue plans to make Brookfield even more bike-friendly by adding bike racks, seeking grant funding for bike routes, and enhancing safety for cyclists.

“Making it safer and easier for residents to ride bikes around town helps make our community healthier, more environmentally friendly and studies show that it can contribute to local economic success,” Village Manager Keith Sbiral said.

Bike Brookfield would not have been possible without the generosity of many individuals and organizations. Financial supporters included Brookfield Zoo (the lead sponsor); Brightleaf Homes; The Brookfield Elks; Carstar; First National Bank of Brookfield; Kane, McKenna and Associates; Kiwanis Club; State Farm – Carl Laponte; the Citizens Police Academy Alumni, and the VFW. In-kind sponsors that donated snacks, water or raffle prizes included Costco, Dan’s Bike Shop, FocusOm Yoga, Mary’s Morning Mix-Up, Sign Up Sign Co., Tischler Finer Foods, The Wheel Thing and Zoo City Treats. Volunteers from local Girl Scouts, the Brookfield Police Department and the Village of Brookfield also worked at the event.

For more information about the Village of Brookfield please contact the Department of Community and Economic Development at 708.485.7344 or contact Nicholas Greifer at [ngreifer@brookfieldil.gov](mailto:ngreifer@brookfieldil.gov).

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